



A Greenwich Hospital Alliance

PRESS RELEASE

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Understanding and Preventing Surgical Site Infection Research Wins Award at Annual American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine Meeting

GREENWICH, CT – **The ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education, Inc.**

(ONSF) proudly announces its research project, *Understanding and Preventing Surgical Site Infection*, was awarded 2nd place at the recent meeting of the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine. Participating in this research project were ONS Sports Medicine Specialists and Orthopedic Surgeons. The American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) was founded primarily as a forum for research and the education of orthopedic surgeons, physicians and health care professionals in the field of sports medicine. Each year the AOSSM holds a conference to highlight areas of recent research, surgical techniques and to debate and share clinical insights about current topics in the field of sports medicine. Physicians are recognized and awarded for their efforts in research and presentations about sports medicine conditions.

At the annual AOSSM meeting held in Seattle, Washington this July 10th-13th, ONS orthopedic surgeons Timothy Greene, MD, Katie Vadasdi, MD, Director of the ONS Women's Sports Medicine Center and Paul Sethi, MD, orthopedic surgeon and President of the ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education were awarded 2nd place for research titled "Incidence of Culture Positive Propionibacterium Acnes in Shoulder Arthroscopy." The research is best described in a statement below from Dr. Paul Sethi:

"As the field of shoulder surgery and, particularly, shoulder replacement grows, the risk of developing shoulder infection increases. When treated imperfectly, infection may cause devastating complications. Our goal is to help develop a universal measure to absolutely

minimize post-surgical infection. Reducing complications adds value to patient experience and avoids the costly road of infection eradication. The bacterium (Propionibacter Acnes) most commonly attributed to shoulder infection is a very unusual organism. Until recently, it was not properly recognized because it was so difficult to identify.

Now that one of the greatest bacterial offenders (in the shoulder) has been more clearly identified, we are looking for ways to prevent it from infecting patients. In our last study, we took over three hundred cultures and studied them. After careful analysis, we were able to identify when (during surgery) patients are most susceptible to this bacterial infection and were able to determine just how frequently this bacteria is present. Now that we know when this bacterium may gain its access to patients, we are developing ways to attack it at the patient's point of vulnerability.”

Posters are judged by the AOSSM Education Program Committee. With just three posters receiving awards, **ONSF** is proud of this accomplishment and congratulate the physicians on their research and 2nd place award.

ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education, Inc. is a registered not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organization devoted to researching the causes and optimal treatments of orthopedic injuries and musculoskeletal conditions. The ONS Foundation, in alliance with Greenwich Hospital, strives to improve standards of excellence for the treatment of musculoskeletal disorders through clinical research, physician and patient education, and community outreach programs. The Foundation is located at 6 Greenwich Office Park, Greenwich, CT. For further information about the ONS Foundation call (203) 869-3131 or visit our website at www.ons-foundation.org

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